



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/806,105	03/23/2004	Toru Okada	1075.1255	1845
21171	7590	04/05/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			JARRETT, RYAN A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2125	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/806,105	OKADA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ryan A. Jarrett	2125	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 January 2006.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,4,6 and 8-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 1,4,6 and 8-31 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 32 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 23 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Some of Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-13, filed 1/18/06, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, and 8-32 has been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 103 rejection of claims 1, 4, 6, and 8-32 has been withdrawn. However, Examiner does not agree that Mateau is not directed to supporting the design of a manufacturing line, as argued by Applicant. The tooling assembly of Mateau comprises hot runner systems, cooling systems, and support, opening and part ejection mechanisms, and can thus be considered a "manufacturing line". The reasons for allowance are set forth below.

Applicant's arguments, see pages 10-13, filed 1/18/06, with respect to the 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claim 33 has been fully considered and are persuasive. The 35 U.S.C. 101 rejection of claim 33 has been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mateau et al. US 2004/0064211 in view of Beauchesne US 5,777,876.

Mateau et al. discloses:

33. A method, comprising: providing stored selectable information of element types in relation to a manufacturing line (e.g., [0007], [0016], [0041], [0052]); receiving a selection from the provided information of the element types and determining element types and specification corresponding to the selected information for forming the manufacturing line (e.g., [0007], [0016], [0041], [0052]); and outputting information of the manufacturing line responsive to the received selection in accordance with the stored information of the element types (e.g., [0050]), wherein the stored information of the element types is associated with conditions defining a relationship of the element types to a constituent element or other element types (e.g., [0031], [0046], [0056]).

Mateau et al. discloses a system for supporting design of a manufacturing line for a tooling assembly where the manufacturing line is constituted by combination of a plurality of element types of manufacturing cells. Mateau et al. does not disclose that the “tooling assembly” manufacturing line is for manufacturing electronic devices. However, it is clear that the design methodology of Mateau et al. can be applied to a variety of different types of manufacturing lines, including manufacturing lines that assemble electronic devices.

Beauchesne discloses a database manufacturing process management system for supporting design of a manufacturing line for an electronic device where the manufacturing line is constituted by a combination of a plurality of element types of manufacturing cells.

Mateau et al. and Beauchesne are analogous art since both pertain to systems for supporting design of manufacturing lines constituted by a plurality of element types of manufacturing cells.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Mateau et al. with Beauchesne since it is apparent that the basic principles of the database design support system of Mateau et al. can conceivably be applied to a variety of different types of manufacturing lines, without departing from the true spirit of the Mateau et al. invention. And since Beauchesne teaches that facilities for manufacturing electronic devices are well suited to database design support systems that optimize the relationships between the manufacturing line element types, or manufacturing cells, since such facilities often have a large complement of different kinds of equipment partitioned into several different manufacturing lines located within large factory spaces for manufacturing a large number of different products (e.g., col. 1 line 10 – col. 2 line 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 4, 6, and 8-32 are allowed.

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest that said determination information is at least one of a conditional expression which determines another element type, or a specification of another element type, both complying with the selected element type, which would otherwise be caused when a first element type has been selected, and an incidental expression having information to be used for preventing reflection of information about a specific constituent element or element type

in response to the selected element type, which would otherwise be caused when a second element type has been selected, in combination with the remaining features and elements of the claimed invention.

Mateau merely discloses that the process accounts for the interrelationships of every part with every other part in the mold manufacturing line and makes certain specific modification according to the specific application to reach an optimal mold manufacturing line design solution (e.g., [0031]). However, Mateau does not specifically disclose automatically determining another element type (or part) complying with the selected element type based on this interrelationship. Mateau just discloses that the design is continuously validated and maintained to provide a working tooling assembly line at the end of the design process (e.g., [0056]).

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

7. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 2125

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

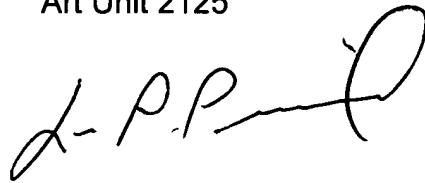
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ryan A. Jarrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-3742. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:30 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard can be reached on (571) 272-3749. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ryan A. Jarrett
Examiner
Art Unit 2125

4/1/06
RAJ



LEO PICARD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100